

LAW OFFICES OF

FISCHER, WILLIS AND PANZER

STERLING 3-3660

HENRY G. FISCHER
JOHN W. WILLIS
IRVING R. M. PANZER

1735 DESALES STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

OGC REVIEW
COMPLETED

December 16, 1955

General Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Earlier this year Congress enacted Public Law 285, 84th Congress, approved August 9, which created a claims fund for American citizens whose properties were confiscated by Rumania, Hungary or Bulgaria or whose properties in those countries suffered war damage. The claims are to be adjudicated by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, and claims must be filed with that Commission by September 30, 1956. The claims must of course be fully substantiated as to ownership, nature of the property, value, damage or confiscation, and similar questions. You can readily understand that the nature of the present governments of these satellite countries precludes obtaining any information from them, and since it is unlikely that most American citizens would be fortunate enough to have in this country sufficient records evidencing their ownership and nature of their property in the satellites, documentation of the claims becomes an extremely vexing problem. We represent persons who will file such claims.

The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission is aware of these difficulties and has offered its good offices and, if possible, those of the Department of State, but it is unlikely that those agencies will be able to assist us in obtaining documentation. The satellites have shown no indication of cooperating. However, it is quite possible that other United States agencies - such as yours - have on file a considerable documentation, made for other purposes, which would be of the greatest value to us in proving our claims.

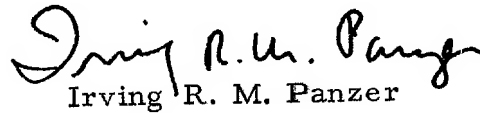
Our clients owned considerable property in Arad, Rumania. I am informed that one of your predecessor intelligence agencies made detailed surveys of the Arad territory and that those surveys would

General Counsel - December 16, 1955 - Page 2

unquestionably describe my clients' properties in such a manner as to be most instructive to the Commission on the questions I outlined above. Those reports should still be in your files. The importance of these reports to our clients' case is so great that I respectfully request an opportunity to meet with representatives of your agency and discuss with them the manner in which your reports could be employed by us without revealing any classified information or violating any provision of law. Since it is quite possible that my clients' claims could be substantiated only through the information in your files, I hope that you will give this letter careful study.

If you desire to verify any of the points I have made in this letter, you might want to check with the General Counsel of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Mr. Andrew T. McGuire, for an authoritative statement. I hope to hear from you soon.

Very truly yours,


Irving R. M. Panzer

IRMP/fc